

## *Tips on Weatherstripping*

Warmed or air-conditioned air mixes with outside air through gaps in your home's thermal envelope-exterior walls, windows, doors, the roof, and the floors. These kinds of air leaks can waste large amounts of energy. Weatherstripping and caulking is an effective way to rid your home of costly drafts, saving you energy and money.

Most experts agree that the time and money invested in weatherstripping and caulking windows and doors can pay off faster than almost any other home improvement you can make, even when your home is well insulated. This tip sheet will focus on weatherstripping in particular.

Besides keeping out moisture, wind, and hot or cold air, weatherstripping will block entry of dust and noise, resulting in a cleaner, quieter home. Both weatherstripping and caulking are economical and, usually do-it-yourself jobs.

Loose fitting windows should be weatherstripped to keep warm air from escaping and make you feel more comfortable. The most vulnerable windows are swinging windows, and double hung windows. Some effective types of weatherstripping are spring-plastic, metal-backed vinyl and adhesive-backed foam.

Weatherstripping around exterior doors can be checked with a flashlight. From outside the closed door, move the flashlight slowly around the door edge. A "helper" inside the house can see the light shining in where weatherstripping is needed.

To determine how much weatherstripping is needed, add the perimeters of all windows and doors to be weatherstripped. Then add about 5-10 percent to accommodate any waste. Also take into consideration that weatherstripping comes in varying depths and widths.

Weatherstripping supplies and techniques range from simple to the technical. Consult the instructions on the weatherstripping package. Here are a few basic guidelines:

- ✓ *Weatherstripping should be applied to clean, dry surfaces in temperatures above 20 degrees F.*
- ✓ *Measure the area to be weatherstripped twice before you cut anything.*
- ✓ *Apply weatherstripping snugly against both surfaces. The material should compress when the window or door is shut.*



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